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AMBLECOTE  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



# REPORTS

OF THE

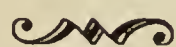
## Medical Officer of Health

AND

## Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

December 31st, 1954



STOURBRIDGE  
J. Thos. Ford, Limited, Printers and Manufacturing Stationers  
1955

Amblecote Urban District Council.

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# Annual Report

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health

For the Year ending December 31st, 1954.

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MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you the Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1954.

The Vital Statistics show a Crude Death Rate of 10.9 per 1000 of the population, as compared with 12.3 for 1953. The Live Birth Rate was 14.2 per 1000 of the population, as compared with 12.6 for 1953. There was 1 Still-birth. The Infantile Mortality Rate was 47 per 1000 live births.

Housing and Overcrowding are dealt with in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

There has been no change in the Industrial Circumstances of your District since my last report.

## GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District in Acres	-	-	-	665
Number of Persons per acre	-	-	-	4.5
Population (Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population, middle of 1954)	-	-	-	3020
Number of inhabited houses	-	-	-	970
Average number of persons per house	-	-	-	3.1
Rateable Value	-	-	-	£20,841
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	-	-	-	£82

## VITAL STATISTICS.

Rate per 1000 of the Estimated Resident Population.

			M.	F.	Rate per 1000 of the Estimated Resident Population.
Live Births	Legitimate	Total 43 :	20	23	14.2
	Illegitimate	— :	—	—	

Still-Births, Legitimate, Total 1 ; Rate per 1000  
Total (live and still-births) - - - 23

Birth Rate, England & Wales, 1954 - - - 15.2

Deaths - 33—Males, 23 ; Females, 10 ;

Crude Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated  
resident population - - - 10.9

Adjusted Death Rate per 1000 - - - 9.7

Death Rate, England & Wales, 1954 - - - 11.3

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis or other Puerperal causes Nil.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age - - - 2

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :

(per 1000 live births) - - - 47

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

England & Wales - - - 25.5 per 1000

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) - - - 5

Death Rate from Cancer per 1000 of the population 1.6

Deaths from Measles (all ages) . . . Nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) - - Nil.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) - 1

Ages at which deaths occurred (33).

Under 1 year	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 and over
2	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	7	23

12 of these deaths occurred at ages from 70 to 80 years,  
and 6 over 80 years.

## CAUSES OF DEATH (Registrar General's Return).

DISEASES.	1953		1954	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers -	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever -	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever -	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough -	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria -	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System -	-	-	-	-
Other Forms of Tuberculosis -	-	-	-	-
Syphilis -	-	-	-	-
Influenza -	-	-	-	-
Measles -	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis -	-	-	-	-
Acute Infectious Encephalitis -	-	-	-	-
Cancer -	4	1	4	1
Diabetes -	-	-	-	-
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions -	8	5	1	1
Heart Disease -	5	5	9	7
Other Diseases of Circulatory System -	-	1	-	-
Bronchitis -	1	-	2	-
Pneumonia -	-	-	1	-
Other Respiratory Diseases -	-	-	-	-
Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum -	-	-	1	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) -	-	-	1	-
Appendicitis -	-	-	-	-
Other Digestive Diseases -	-	-	-	-
Nephritis -	1	-	-	-
Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis -	-	-	-	-
Other Maternal Causes -	-	-	-	-
Premature Birth -	-	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations and Birth Injuries -	-	-	1	-
Suicide -	-	-	1	-
Road Traffic Accidents -	-	-	1	-
Other Violent Causes -	3	-	-	-
All other Causes -	1	2	1	1
TOTALS -	23	14	23	10
	37		33	



# **PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.**

As 1938

## **ADOPTIVE ACTS.**

As 1938

### **SECTION B.**

#### **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA.**

##### ii (a) Laboratory Facilities :

All Clinical Material sent to the County Bacteriologist,  
Stafford.

##### Bacteriological Examinations :

Number of Specimens sent for Report		-	25
	Total.	Positive.	Negative.
Diphtheria (Swabs)	1	Nil	1
Sputum	15	5	10

The duty of providing the following services has been laid upon  
Staffordshire County Council in accordance with the provisions of  
the National Health Service Act, 1946, viz :

Health Centres ;  
Care of Mothers and Young Children ;  
Midwifery ;  
Health Visiting ;  
Home Nursing ;  
Vaccination and Immunisation ;  
Ambulance Services ;  
Prevention of Illness—care and aftercare ;  
Domestic Help.  
Blind Persons.

No powers have been delegated to the Council.

## HOSPITALS.

GENERAL AND FOR THE TREATMENT OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

These are controlled by a Regional Board and are available for the treatment of Patients who have been duly notified.

## SECTION C.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) WATER. As 1938.

(ii) DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE. As 1938.

2. RIVERS & STREAMS. As 1938.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation.

(ii) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

*The particulars will be found in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.*

(iii) Swimming Baths and Pools. As 1938.

4. SCHOOLS. One Junior School—recently transferred to the County Council.

5. DISPOSAL OF THE DEAD. As 1938.

## SECTION D.

### HOUSING.

#### HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1954.

1. *Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices :—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	- - 12
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2. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—*

(A)—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9, 10 & 16 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	- Nil.
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices :—

(a) By Owners	- - Nil.
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(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil.
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(B).—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11 AND 13 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	- - Nil.
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	- - 2
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(C).—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	- - - Nil.
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(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	- - - Nil.
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4. *Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding :—*

- |     |     |  |   |   |   |      |
|-----|-----|--|---|---|---|------|
| (a) | (1) | Number of Dwellings overcrowded at end of year (1954)  | - | - | - | Nil. |
|     | (2) | Number of families dwelling therein  | - |   |   | Nil. |
|     | (3) | Number of persons dwelling therein   | - |   |   | Nil. |
| (b) |     | Number of New Cases of Overcrowding reported during the year   | - | - | - | Nil. |
| (c) | (1) | Number of Cases of Overcrowding relieved during the year   | - | - | - | Nil. |
|     | (2) | Number of persons concerned in such cases  | - |   |   | Nil. |
| (d) |     | Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding | - | - | - | Nil. |

**HOUSING CONDITIONS AND OVERCROWDING**

*(See Report of Sanitary Inspector).*

**SECTION E.****INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**

- (a) Milk Supply ;
- (b) Meat and other foods.

*(See Report of Sanitary Inspector).*

- (c), (d) Adulteration, etc. Food & Drugs Acts, etc.—are administered by the County Council.
- (e) Nutrition : No action has been taken.
- (f) Shell Fish : Little, if any, sold in the District.

## SECTION F.

## PREVALENCE &amp; CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

## (2) NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1954.

DISEASE.	Total No. of Cases.	AGES.										Cases sent to Isolat'n Hos- pital.	Deaths	
		under 1 year	1 to 2 yrs.	2 to 3 yrs.	3 to 4 yrs.	4 to 5 yrs.	5 to 10 yrs.	10 to 15 yrs.	15 to 20 yrs.	20 to 35 yrs.	35 to 45 yrs.			45 to 65 yrs.
Enteric Fever ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping-cough	9	-	1	-	-	1	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals ...	9	-	1	-	-	1	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

## 5. (a) PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS. As 1938.

(b) **TUBERCULOSIS, 1954.**

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 to 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 to 10 „	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 to 15 „	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 to 20 „	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 to 25 „	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 to 35 „	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 to 45 „	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 to 55 „	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 to 65 „	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

# **FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948**

## **Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1954 for the Urban District of Amblecote in the County of Stafford.**

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937 & 1948.

### **1.—INSPECTIONS** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .. ..	1	11	7	1	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. .. ..	2	35	14	4	—	2
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises) .. ..	3	—	—	—	—	3
<b>TOTAL</b> ..		46	21	5	—	

### **2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found**

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4						4
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	5						5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6						6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7						7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8						8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(a) insufficient .. ..	9						9
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	10	5	5	—	—	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	11						11
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	12						12
<b>TOTAL</b> ..		5	5	—	—	—	

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen.

Your obedient servant,

**J. H. SIMPKISS,**

Medical Officer of Health.



# Amblecote Urban District Council.

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## Annual Report

OF THE

## Sanitary Inspector

For the Year 1954.

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MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you as concisely as possible my report for the year 1954.

### Sanitary Accommodation

Houses provided with Water Closets	-	957	} 970
Houses provided with Pan and Earth Closets		13	
Houses provided with separate Water Closets		838	} 970
Houses provided with Water Closets in common		119	
Houses provided with Pan and Earth Closets		13	

The houses that have Pan and Earth Closets are situated in parts of your district where sewer accommodation is neither available nor practicable.

### Removal of Household Refuse

957 Houses out of 970 are provided with suitable portable receptacles for the household ashes and refuse. The Dust Bins are the property of the owners or occupiers, who, up to the present, have not refused to replace those worn out. Under those circumstances there has been no necessity to consider the provision of Bins by the Council. Removal of Refuse is performed by Direct Labour and the Collection is bi-weekly. Disposal is by tipping. The tip is also used for commercial purposes so that the refuse is quickly covered. The vehicle used is a Horse Drawn one properly constructed for the purpose. It is both efficient and economical.

Collection of Salvage :—Salvage is not now collected. Requests are passed on to the Chief Sanitary Inspector, Brierley Hill.

### Housing

36 Flats, 18 with 2 bedrooms and 18 with 3 bedrooms, have been completed and put into occupation during 1954. One house-owner-occupier—only has been built by private enterprise. Suitable sites for further houses are being sought but unfortunately there do not appear to be any available.



## Housing Conditions

The houses in your district may be classified as follows :—

Houses with one Bedroom	-	-	1	} 970
Houses with two Bedrooms	-	-	336	
Houses with three Bedrooms	-	-	548	
Houses with more than three Bedrooms			85	

Nos. 50/51 High Street have been demolished. No. 1 Withy-moor and No. 96 High Street have been vacated and are awaiting demolition. The number of unfit houses demolished since 1910 is 94, practically equivalent to one house in every ten. The Council have built 200 traditional houses and 48 flats of which 128 are post-war. No Repair Notices under the Housing Acts have been issued. General defects, necessitating the service of 59 Informal and Statutory Notices—within the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936—have been dealt with at 48 houses. No proceedings at the Magistrates' Court have been necessary. Rents of most of the houses, excepting those owned by the Council, are controlled.

Improvement Grants. The Council have decided to make Improvement Grants for the modernisation of old houses to the extent of the product of a rate of 3d. in the £ per annum. It is anticipated that a number of applications will be received. A gradual permanent improvement should result.

Overcrowding. There is little actual overcrowding and practically none according to the Statutory Table. The average number of persons per house is 3.1. Occupation of a single house by two families, generally related, is common. The majority of applications for Council Houses are from married sons and daughters residing with their parents. Such conditions do not always result in happiness, particularly where there are young children. "In Laws" naturally have different outlooks on life to the uprising generation. The number of separate families is estimated to be about 1120 accommodated in 970 houses.

## Nomadic Caravan Dwellers

1954 has been free from visitors.

## Eradication of Bed Bugs, Etc.

No premises have been found to be infested and no complaint of infestation has been received.

## Water Supply

All premises, excepting one, receive a continuous and pure supply of water for drinking and domestic purposes from the mains of Stourbridge and District Water Board. It is pumped direct from the Bore Holes at Wollaston Road and Mill Meadow, both of which

are in your area. Samples of the water for Chemical and Bacteriological Examination are submitted at frequent intervals to Laboratories provided by the County Council. They show a certain Hardness otherwise the water is of excellent quality for drinking.

### Milk—Retailers—Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order 1952

There are two producers only of Milk in your area. The Milk is taken direct to a Dairy in a neighbouring District for treatment. There is no Dairy in Amblecote. Under the provisions of the above order all Milk sold by retail in your area must be "Designated" Milk contained in bottles. Supplementary Licences to retail Milk in Amblecote have been issued to nine persons whose premises are outside the district and ten Shopkeepers within the District have each received a retailer's licence.

### Food—Public Health (Meat) Regulations

No Slaughter-house is in use in your District. One, now dilapidated, was used regularly up to 1939. There are three retail Butchers. They obtain their meat as follows :— (1) from Dudley ; (2) from Wolverhampton Abbatoir ; (3) from Kidderminster. In each instance there is 100% inspection by qualified Inspectors. The quality of meat retailed is high. Domestic pig feeding is not common. No notice to slaughter on private premises was given during 1954.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933. Two persons only are licensed to slaughter or stun animals in a slaughter house.

### Food Distribution

Food is sold by retail in the following shops :—

Business premises only—Grocers 5 ; Butchers 1 ; Greengrocer 1.  
Combined Shops and dwelling houses—Grocers and General 9 ; Butchers 2 ; Greengrocers 3 ; Sweets, Tobacco, etc. 3 ; Fried Fish 2 ; Cafe 1.

Worcestershire County Council have a Cooking Centre where meals are prepared and served.

Eight factories have Canteens for their employees.

One "Model" Bakery (Factory) is in operation from which Bread is distributed over a wide area.

No Ice-Cream is manufactured in your area. 15 premises are registered for the storage and sale thereof. They are each fitted with a suitable "Conservator." The premises comprise 12 Shops,

1 Cafe, 1 Sports Pavilion and 1 Public House. The Model Bye-Laws of the Ministry of Food for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in the handling, wrapping and delivery of Food sold or intended for sale for human consumption have been adopted. They came into operation on 11th September, 1950. They are generally well observed. Licensed premises, have not, as yet, been dealt with.

One market, a private one, operates for the sale and distribution of agricultural produce. It is also used as an Egg Packing Station. There is no public market nor are there any stalls for street trading.

### Unsound Food

No unsound food has been seized or surrendered.

### Prevention of Damage by Pests

The following premises have been treated for infestations of Rats and Mice, viz. :—Factories 4, Hospital 1, Licensed premises 1, Dwelling Houses 2, Refuse Tips 2. The Factories are treated once in each quarter. The work is performed by an "Operator" employed by Brierley Hill Urban District Council by arrangement with Mr. H. J. Parker, Chief Sanitary Inspector. His assistance is appreciated. A charge to cover the cost of treatment is made in respect of premises other than Dwelling Houses. The Sewers have not been treated as previous tests proved definitely negative.

### Smoke and Atmospheric Pollution

Emissions of smoke from the chimney stacks of three factory premises have been dealt with. One arose from the chimney of the Offices. Electric heating is to be installed before next autumn. An expert of the Ministry of Fuel and Power was called in to advise on means of preventing emissions at one factory and a considerable improvement has resulted. Inefficient stoking is still a contributory factor in the amount of smoke discharged.

### Pet Animals Act, 1951

No premises are licensed.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HAROLD PIPER,

June, 1955.

Sanitary Inspector.